

Shadows and Light series

# *The White Hare* by Nicola Davies



- Author Nicola Davies
- Illustrator Anastasia Izlesou
- Hardback, 40 pages
- Size 200 x 150mm
- For readers aged 9 +
- Recommended for teaching Year 5+
- Price £8.99
- ISBN 9781910862483

Author and illustrator's websites:

[www.nicola-davies.com](http://www.nicola-davies.com)

[www.izlesou.co.uk](http://www.izlesou.co.uk)

## Reading Log

Keep a reading log so you can record thoughts, ideas and viewpoints as they develop and change during the course of the story. This can include:

- Predictions
- Plot development – summarising each chapter
- Character studies – deduction and making inferences and refining opinions as the story progresses
- Author techniques – style analysis: form, language, imagery, foreshadowing, motifs, themes, viewpoint, tone.
- Vocabulary – clarifying unfamiliar words and extending personal vocabulary.

When considering discussion points, try out your ideas with a response partner before entering into whole class discussion.

## THE WHITE HARE

### First Impressions

#### Discussion points

(Prediction and inference)

Make a note of your opinions.

- Look at the title only – don't peep at the blurb! What do you think this book will be about?
- Think, pair, share: discuss possible ways that the plot might develop, map these out quickly and share with the class.

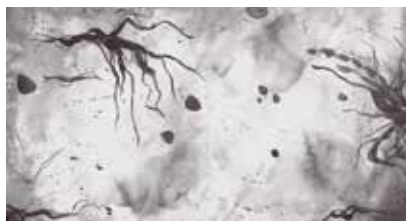
Consider:

- What does the cover illustration suggest?
- Where would you expect to see a white hare?
- Read the blurb to see whether this confirms your ideas or alters them. (All ideas can feed into your own writing, so none are wasted.)

### End papers

Look carefully at the end papers.

- What does the image make you think of?





## Title pages

- Look at the illustration. What sort of art materials has the illustrator used?
- How has she created the effect of snow?
- How do you feel when you turn from the picture of the hare to the picture of the robin?

### Art challenge

- Create your own winter scene, deciding which media would work best, e.g.: inks, pastels, acrylics, charcoal, pencils, felt tips, watercolour.



## Pages 4 and 5

### Writing challenge

- Note down everything you notice in the double page spread.
- Make a collection of words which could help you describe the scene, using a thesaurus to extend your range of choice.

Either, from the viewpoint of an observer or the hare:

- Create a short, evocative prose description of the scene.

Or:

- Create a poem, thinking carefully about the time of day, what can be heard, seen touched and smelt.

## Pages 6 and 7

### Discussion

- How long ago do you think this story was set?
- Do you believe that human beings and animals were once interchangeable?

### Creative challenge

- Create a willow weaving. You could make your own design or follow instructions on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK0zc73oN0u7RKrdSb30cww/videos>

### Research

- Find out how rush lights were made.

<http://pilgrim.ceredigion.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1239>



## Pages 8 and 9

### Vocabulary

- Scan page 9 for the word 'solitary'.
- How is this different from being lonely?

### Discussion

- Would you be scared to be alone on the edge of the wood on a winter's evening?
- Do you ever have times when you want to be quiet?
- Do you have a favourite place to be solitary?
- How does the illustrator suggest the solitary nature of Ostra in the illustration on page 8?

### Creative challenge

- Create an animal sound collage by downloading recordings and arranging them electronically (e.g. Garageband)
- Remember the importance of silence!
- Make a QR code of your recording and place this next to your winter scene art work to give your viewer a more complete experience.



## Pages 10 and 11

### Discussion

- Do you think we miss making connections with nature and developing our understanding because our modern world is so full of background noise?
- How does silence make you feel?
- How does the illustrator convey a sense of the robin's movements?
- What do you know about doing a good turn from traditional tales? Give specific examples.

## Pages 12 and 13

### Discussion

- Why do you think the different creatures say, 'You won't be sorry'?
- What words could we use to describe Ostra's character, considering the author describes that 'before she even thought, she gave whatever help was asked for because that was her nature.'?

### Author technique

- Spot the simile: what does 'a voice as small as a raindrop' suggest?
- What other similes can you think of for small that are not clichéd?
- Decide whose is the most vivid and engaging.



## Pages 14 and 15

### Discussion

- What is your initial impression of Wolvas? Give reasons for your opinion, referring closely to the text.

### Rapid research

- Find a recipe for stinging nettle soup and create your own illustrated recipe card so that the instructions are easy to follow.
- Find out what the benefits of eating nettles are (Vit. A, C, D, K, iron, calcium and protein).



## Pages 16 and 17

### Discussion

- Compare this double page spread with the illustration on the previous page. What are the similarities and differences? Which do you prefer, and why.
- What do you notice about the leaves in each picture?
- What techniques do you think the artist has used.

## Pages 18 and 19

### Discussion

- Do you think it is likely that the better looking a person is, the more they will be liked?
- Do you think attractive people have an unfair advantage in life?
- How do you feel you should evaluate people?
- What indications are there that Wolvas is 'wicked and cruel'?
- What do you think has happened to Ostra's sisters?

## Pages 20 and 21

### Rapid research

- As a class, find out information about plants and their properties to make either:
  - A class display
  - A concertina book
  - A leaflet



- An electronic presentation

Plants that would have been growing at this time would probably have been:

- Marjoram
- Bedstraw
- Dandelion
- Hyssop
- Camomile
- Betony
- Nettle
- Comfrey
- Mistletoe
- Hawthorn
- Meadowsweet
- Plantain
- St John's wort
- Thyme
- Valerian
- Burdock
- Coltsfoot

### Writing challenge

- Collect a thought shower of words that could be used to complement the illustration on page 21.
- Create a haiku for any of the illustrations you have looked at so far. Each poem contains three unrhymed lines and usually includes 17 syllables, arranged in lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables. A haiku usually describes a scene in nature and includes a seasonal reference.

### Model example:

Owl haunts like a wraith  
While the hedgerow holds its breath  
Death is on the wing.



## Pages 22 and 23

### Discussion

- What alternative excuses could you think of to fend off Wolvas's unwelcome advances?
- What qualities do you think Ostra's portrait reveals?

## Pages 24 and 25

### Discussion

- What do you think of Wolvas's reaction to Ostra's polite refusal?
- Why do you think the boat sank?
- What would you do if you were Ostra?
- Why do you think Ostra sees him differently at this point?
- Compare and contrast the portraits of Ostra (page 22) and Wolvas (page 25).

### Author technique

- Look at the imagery in the second paragraph. Spot the simile. Why is this particularly appropriate?
- Find the example of personification. Why do you think the writer has chosen this image?

### Vocabulary

- Scan the text on page 24 to find the word wane:
- Can you work out what it means from the context?



- Look it up in the dictionary to confirm that you are correct.
- Construct a sentence, using this word.

**Pages 26 and 27**

**Vocabulary**

- Scan the text on page 26 to find the word osier:
- Can you work out what it means from the context?
- Look it up in the dictionary to confirm that you are correct.
- Construct a sentence, using this word.

**Author technique**

- How does Nicola Davies create the sense of speed and then capture?



**Pages 28 and 29**

**Discussion**

- Have you ever felt 'a bubble of light inside' you? What made you feel like that?

**Writing challenge**

Brainstorm words, phrases and images so that you can:

Either:

- Create a poem or narrative about your experience.

Or:

- Create a poem about Ostra running free.

You could do a transformation diamante poem. A diamante is a seven line poem, shaped like a diamond, so they work well when written electronically, centring the text.

Line 1: 1 word (subject/noun that is contrasting to line 7)

Line 2: 2 words (adjectives) that describe line 1

Line 3: 3 words (action verbs) that relate to line 1

Line 4: 4 words (nouns) first 2 words relate to line 1 last 2 words relate to line 7

Line 5: 3 words (action verbs) that relate to line 7

Line 6: 2 words (adjectives) that describe line 7

Line 7: 1 word (subject/noun that is contrasting to line 1)

Ostra

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 -----  
 -----  
 -----  
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White hare

Or:

Wolvas

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 -----  
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Dead

**Discussion**

- What do you think of the way the story ends?
- Were there any surprises?

- How does it make you feel?
- Do you think there is a moral to this tale?



## Pages 30 and 31

### Discussion

- What does the last double spread suggest?

## Pages 32 and 33

### Rapid Research

- Bullet point the information you have on Nicola Davies and Anastasia Izlesou.
- Would you rather be an author or an illustrator? Give reasons for your answer.

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## SHADOWS AND LIGHT SERIES:

The White Hare

The Selkie's Mate

Elias Martin

Mother Cary's Butter Knife

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